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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,210	02/17/2004	Raj Manakkal	01014-1006	9914

7590 11/15/2006  
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EXAMINER

LIEU, JULIE BICHNGOC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/780,210	Applicant(s) MANAKKAL, RAJ	
	Examiner Julie Lieu	Art Unit 2612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-29 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 24-29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
         1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
         2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
         3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to Applicant's amendment filed August 23, 2006. New claim 29 has been amended.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. Claims 18-27 and 29 again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang (US Patent No. 6,194,998).

Claim 18:

Huang discloses a device, thus, a method for replacing a valve stem, comprising:

- a. Disconnecting a lead 65 coupled to a valve pin 80a disposed within the valve stem from a terminal 51 of a battery
- b. Replacing a valve stem; and
- c. Connecting a lead 65 coupled to a valve pin disposed within the replaced valve stem with the terminal of the battery.

See figure 2.

Though the battery contacts 65 and 90 are not "wire" lead, they are functionally equivalent as wire leads.

Claim 19:

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The battery 5 is coupled to a tire pressure sensor 4.

Claim 20:

In Huang, when threaded connector 71 is disconnected from 60, the connector is disconnected from the wire lead of another terminal 52 of the battery, and when a new valve stem is connected, the threaded connector 70 of the new valve stem is connected to the wire lead 84 of the other terminal 52 of the battery.

Claim 21:

Huang discloses a device, thus, a method for replacing a valve stem, comprising:

- a. Disconnecting a valve pin 80a disposed within the valve stem from a terminal 51 of a battery;
- b. Removing a valve stem;
- c. Inserting a new valve stem; and
- d. Connecting a valve pin disposed within the new valve stem with the terminal 51 of the battery.

See figure 2.

Though the battery contacts 65 and 90 are not “wire” lead, they are functionally equivalent as wire leads.

Claim 22:

The battery 5 is coupled to a tire pressure sensor 4.

Claim 23:

In Huang, when threaded connector 71 is disconnected from 60, the connector is disconnected from the lead of another terminal 52 of the battery and when a new valve stem is

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connected, the threaded connected 70 of the new valve stem is connected to the lead of the other terminal 52 of the battery.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

4. Claims 14-29 are allowed.

*Applicant's Arguments*

5. The Applicant has argued the following:

Argument 1:

Applicant has contended that "[T]he Examiner makes the conclusory statement that battery contacts 65 and 90 are functionally equivalent as wire leads," but provides no factual basis to support this contention, (see Office Action, page 7)" and "[E]ven still, and assuming, arguendo, that battery contacts 65 and 90 were equivalent, the Examiner cannot rest an obvious determination on mere functional or mechanical equivalency. The Office must provide a suggestion or motivation, based solely within the prior art, that would led one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Huang to arrive at the claimed invention. Yet, no suggestion or motivation was provided. Further, based on Applicant's previous arguments concerning the inoperability of the proposed modification to the Huang system, it is

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doubtful that the Examiner could now provide a reasonable justification to support such modifications.”

*Response to Applicant's Arguments*

6. Applicant's arguments 11/16/05 have been fully considered but are not deemed persuasive.

Response to Argument 1:

It is submitted that the battery terminal contacts 65 and 90 in Huang are functionally equivalent to the wire leads of the invention since contacts 65 and 90 make electrical connection as the wire leads of the present invention. This is the factual support for the rejection. Further, there is no need for motivation to be made since the rejection states that the contacts in Huang are functionally equivalent as the wire leads of the present invention as to make electrical connections.

For the above reasons, the Applicant's arguments are not deemed persuasive and thus the rejection is maintained.

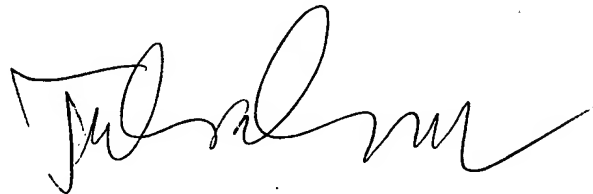
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*Conclusion*

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julie Lieu whose telephone number is 571-272-2978. The examiner can normally be reached on MaxiFlex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik can be reached on 571-272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Lieu', with a stylized, flowing script.

Julie Lieu  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2612

Nov 01, 06